



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0605

December 16, 2021

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

We write today to encourage you to continue granting access to Arlington National Cemetery and similar sites across the country so that volunteers can lay wreaths at gravesites in honor of our nation's fallen heroes.

In 1992, a family decided to donate surplus wreaths from their Christmas tree farm to be laid on the graves in Arlington Cemetery. This tradition, first started in Arlington, has spread across the country. The wreaths are placed on graves to honor and respect the fallen. Every year during the Christmas season, thousands of grateful volunteers lay wreaths on hundreds of thousands of graves of our nation's fallen men and women. By 2008, the United States Senate had passed a resolution recognizing December 13th as "Wreaths Across America Day," and the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 476 to honor December 18th as "Wreaths Across America Day" in 2021.

We understand that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has consistently granted access for this purpose over the years. We are concerned that VA may not continue this tradition, due to recent unfounded attacks from bigoted, anti-Christian groups criticizing the patriotic work of volunteers who lay wreaths on the graves of our nation's fallen heroes as "unconstitutional, an atrocity, and a disgrace" and referring to the wreaths placed on the graves as "gang signs." We are collectively disgusted by the disrespect shown by individuals looking to grab headlines by stomping on the memory of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

This Christmas season, we urge you to accommodate the volunteers who wish to continue to lay wreaths for our nation's heroes as they have done for the past twenty-nine years. We ask that you join us in strongly condemning those who would criticize and cheapen the sacrifices made by our men and women serving in the armed forces. We therefore strongly urge you to accommodate the continued efforts of all organizations who work diligently to remember our nation's heroes, honor the fallen, and teach future generations of the sacrifices made by our servicemembers to keep our country free.

Sincerely,

Bob Good
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Mary Miller
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



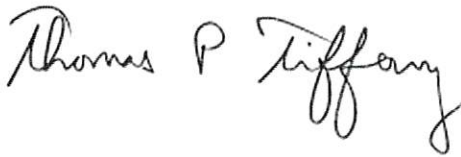
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



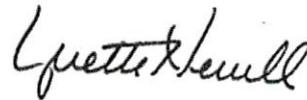
Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



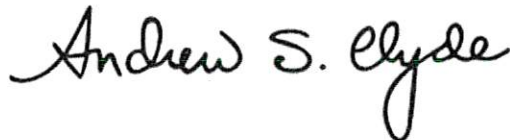
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Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
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Yvette Herrell
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Andrew S. Clyde
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Ralph Norman
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Jody Hice
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Matt Rosendale
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Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



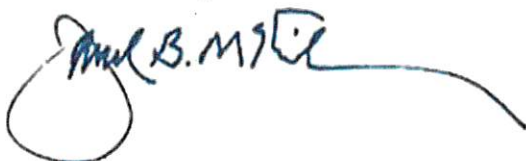
Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



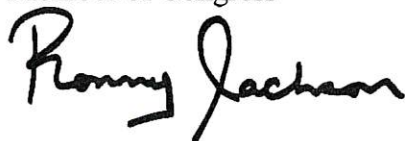
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
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Ronny L. Jackson
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Bill Posey
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Andrew Garbarino
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Andy Biggs
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Louie Gohmert
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